

REMARKS

In the December 14, 2004 United States Patent and Trademark Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawing for the reason that Figures 1 and 2 are not designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." Accompanying this Amendment are proposed corrected Figures 1 and 2 marked up to include the legend "(PRIOR ART)." Approval of the proposed drawing amendments to Figures 1 and 2 and withdrawal of the objection to the drawing is respectfully requested in view of the proposed drawing amendments.

Original claims 1-30 are pending in the application. In the Office Action mailed on December 14, 2004, the Examiner objected to claim 1 for the reason that "the sample" in original claim 1, line 5 lacks an antecedent basis. In accordance with the suggestion by the Examiner, the foregoing Amendment amends "the sample" in line 5 of claim 1 to read "a sample" to obviate the objection.

In the December 14, 2004 Office Action, claims 10, 12, and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, currently amended claim 1 corresponds to original claim 10 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any


intervening claims; currently amended claim 11 corresponds to original claim 12 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and currently amended claim 18 corresponds to original claim 18 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and, consequently, these claims are deemed to be allowable.

Original claims 10, 12, and 19-30 are canceled by the foregoing Amendment. The foregoing Amendment also amends original claims 2-4, 6, and 13-15 to improve the form of the claims. Claims 2-9 as amended depend directly or indirectly from currently amended claim 1 and are therefore deemed to be allowable. Claims 13-17 as amended depend directly from currently amended claim 11 and are therefore also deemed to be allowable. Additionally, new claims 31-35 depend directly from currently amended claim 18 and are deemed to be allowable, as well.

In view of the foregoing Amendment, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early action and

allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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